

SINGULAR LIFE OF A CLERGYMAN. A singular life has been led by the Dublin Probate Court for some days, in which two persons named Horan impeded the will of their relative, the Rev. Maurice O'Connor, on the usual grounds. There was nothing remarkable in the case save for the curious history given in it of the testator's life. He was born in 1835, and for eight or ten years officiated in the Church of Ireland. In 1843 he removed to America, and for a time was engaged in mercantile pursuits. He purchased a property called Rahoona, in Kerry, for £1,900, on which there is a valuable salmon fishery, the value of which has increased by £100 per annum. He made a good profit from his investment in Ireland, and had a shop in Tralee for the sale of groceries, provisions, and other matters, all these transactions being against the rules of the Church. He had purchased Rahoona in the name of his brother Terence, the defendant in this suit; whose name was also placed over the shop door, but used in his own name in the numerous actions which brought him into court. At first his proceedings attracted the notice of his ecclesiastical superiors, and he was disengaged, though not degraded, ad after that he had retired in his shop, dispensing whisky, bread, and bacon in his clerical attire. Long before his death he and his dependants had gone abroad—because the latter claimed Rahoona. He died in the early part of the present year, shortly after his last will and testament had been registered. Margaret Horan, and the defendant, but he had previously made another one, giving Margaret nearly all his property. The jury found for the plaintiff, establishing the document made in their favour.

THE MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON FOREIGN COMPETITION.

Apparently with the same regularity that trade reaches a period of great depression in the usual course of the commercial cycle, the era of "foreign competition" is sure to be reached. The foreign manufacturers of the states that have been formed by so-called statistics. Many of our readers will still remember, perhaps, the wretched figures which were produced several years ago to show the disastrous effect of French competition on English trade, and the disaster which followed on those figures. It is no doubt difficult to remember such statistics in the midst of a prosperity which has lasted so long, but the country has gone through since 1867-68, but now that the complaint is revived we hope there is recognition enough left of the circumstances and results of former discussions to prevent any undue alarm. A peculiarity noticeable in the former discussions, and which is again noticeable, is the absence of any distinct statement as to the number and nature of foreign competitors, and the relation of figures to prove an undoubted injury, although no sensible people would draw that inference from them. The Chairman of the Manchester Chamber, who now makes the complaint, appears to think that if the percentage of our own exports of textiles manufactured to Europe increases at a certain rate, the percentage of our imports of such manufactured articles increases at a greater rate, the ratio of which is due to the foreign manufacturer's increase of his customers' increase at a much rapid rate in cause for dissatisfaction but the reverse. There is no question but that England has never been more prosperous than during the last few years; and we ought rather to rejoice in any evidence of the prosperity of our neighbours. In any case we must expect that manufacturers will continue to increase, as it does with ourselves, the production of articles of manufacturing population, is an old country at least, being a diminishing quantity, and in this view we ought to expect a large increase of our imports of various manufactures from such countries. As manufacturing develops and becomes more and more specialised, this tendency will also increase, and should only suffice satisfaction.

We may be quite sure that for everything we buy abroad, we get something back from us in return, or what is sent comes necessarily in payment of a debt, and is from a loss to us—a primary doctrine of political economy which the reciprocations and reverses of British industry of 1868 and 1869, and those who have raised this present complaint at Manchester, appear unable to comprehend. If it would be difficult to estimate these complainants, however, it is not at all likely to be the depression from which we are now suffering is general, and that our neighbours suffer even more than we do.—Economics.

RESUSCITATION OF THE GLORIES OF BATH.

About forty years ago the social splendour and the festive delights of Bath furnished a stock theme for the novelists of the period. When Miss Austen wished to surround her heroines with scenes of the most overwhelming brilliancy and fascination, it was to the Assembly Rooms in the city of King Bladud that she looked for any scenes, according to her taste. The Evans Brothers, Esqrs., M.R.C., were moments matched, from their residence, bewitching by music, beauty, elegance, fashion, etiquette, and, above all, by the absence of tradespeople, who were quite inconsistent with Paradise, and who have an admiration of themselves at the Guildhall every fortnight."

"The Pickwick Papers" Dickens gave a description of the Royal Rooms, gala night, which is still a feature of Bath, and is now, I am sure, the greatest attraction. The gentlemen have been known, by way of evening dress, bright blue coats with white silk linings; the ladies are less profuse of feathered turbans, and it may be hoped that the dowagers devoted to what are less acceptable of their partners' blouses than Mr. Pickwick used to be. If he played a wrong card, Mr. Bobo, it will be remembered, looked a man in the eye, and said, "If he stopped to consider which was the right card, the Empress of the world throw herself in his chair, and smile with a mingled glance of impatience and pity to Mrs. Colonel Wragby, at which the latter lady would shrug up her shoulders and cough, as much as to say she regretted whether he would ever begin. Of late years, we would see, the fashions discharged by the Opera House, and the Beau Nash of history at Bath have been in.

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F. KRUPP'S CAST STEEL WORKS, ESSEN (GERMANY). SOLE AGENT FOR CHINA AND JAPAN. F. PEIL, of 167 Hongkong, Shanghai, Cologne (Germany).

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BENTER HAVE LEFT "WELL" ALONE. Those who are anxious to make friends, or to keep up a society of their own, should be careful to avoid the practice too often indulged in by speculators that favourable symptoms may be accepted as trustworthy evidence of the merits of any scheme which commends itself to their attention. It is only by a careful examination of the merits of the scheme that the true value of the value of the blessings which attract the eyes of the wealth-seeker, who frequently finds no better than the fairest flower in appearance is in reality a worthless weed. A gentleman in Oswego, Kansas, discovered on his premises a well full of water, possessing as he thought, valuable medicinal properties. On being analysed, it was found to contain a large amount of tannin, a fine compound essence of tea, with twice, eight but very distinct, of naphthalene. The fortunate owner immediately devised a scheme for building an hotel for the accommodation of rheumatic and dyspeptic patients, who it was expected would flock to establish themselves, passing advantages as a "pool of benefits" building under its roof. An attorney, who had been brought in to advise him, clearly observed that all well, discerned at the bottom the remains of two dead rats and a rabbit. To these departed animals were due the powerful flavour and peculiar obnoxious composition of the water. The idea of building the hotel has been relinquished.

SCANDALOUS EXHIBITION OF MUMMIES AT BORDEAUX.

The company of the "Mummie" Times and Gazette, visiting from Bordeaux, assert "There around one of the oldest churches in Bordeaux seems to have something peculiarly mysterious in its nature, so that the bodies buried during ages were converted into mummies. During some alteration at the beginning of this century these bodies were laid bare, and instead of being decently buried again, they were taken off of their resting-places, and ranged upright in a room, and exposed under the bell tower of the church of St. Michel. Here they constitute a dissenting and demoralising show, which is visited by crowds of people, and I am afraid that the clergy of the church are not ashamed to pocket the profits." A rough fellow with a candle on the end of his stick, and who they have in wine-seller's, was brought along to show the clear emanation of that well, discerned at the bottom the remains of two dead rats and a rabbit. To these departed animals were due the powerful flavour and peculiar obnoxious composition of the water. The idea of building the hotel has been relinquished.

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